

## Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 CU-02

OES-06 /085 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:LCB

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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R 192312Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, SCUL, CASC

SUBJECT: POPOV-ARMITAGE MEETING - MAY 19, 1976

1. ARMITAGE SAW POPOV TODAY AT 4:00 P.M. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED;

A. BUTZ VISIT - AGRICULTURE COOPERATION STATEMENT - POPOV STATED THAT KRUSTEV AND BUTZ HAD AGREED THAT BULGARIAN TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL GO TO WASHINGTON BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND JUNE 15. THEY WILL NEGOTIATE A JOINT STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE SIGNED BY KRUSTEV WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON AS THE GUEST OF BUTZ , POPOV SAID.

B. DEFAULTED BONDS - POPOV SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH GEORGE WOODS, AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TORBERT AND FORMER AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD IN WASHINGTON. MR. WOODS AGAIN  
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INVITED THE BULGARIANS TO SEND A DELEGATION TO NEW

YORK. POPOV ADVISED ARMITAGE THAT THE FINANCIAL PEOPLE IN SOFIA HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND WOULD BE SENDING A TEAM TO NEW YORK.

C. COMMERCIAL OFFICE -AMBASSADOR POPOV PRESSED ARMITAGE AS TO HOW REPEAT HOW WE INTEND TO GIVE THE THE BULGARIANS OUR DECISION REGARDING THEIR REQUEST FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN THE U.S., I.E., IN WASHINGTON OR IN SOFIA. WHEN ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT YET READY TO GIVE OUR DECISION POPOV ASKED IF THEY COULD EXPECT OUR RESPONSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO WHICH ARMITAGE SAID YES. POPOV NOTED THAT BULGARIANS WOULD PREFER TO HAVE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO IF THEY WERE ONLY PERMITTED ONE OFFICE.

D. COLLINS CASE - IN RESPONSE TO ARMITAGE QUESTIONING, POPOV REPLIED THAT THE COLLINS CASE WAS NOT AMONG THE 42 DIVIDED FAMILY CASES SETTLED. HE AGREED TO ASK SOFIA WHAT ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN REGARDING THIS CASE , WHEN ARMITAGE SAID ZHIVKOV HAD ADDRESSED IT.

E. EXHIBITS - ARMITAGE ADVISED POPOV THAT FIELD MUSEUM IN CHICAGO HAD REACTED POSITIVELY TO AMBASSADOR HERZ' APPROACH REGARDING THRACIAN EXHIBIT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE METROPOLITAN WAS SERIOUSLY RECONSIDERING ITS DECISION. THEY AGREED THAT THEY WOULD MEET FURTHER AFTER ARMITAGE HAD STUDIED THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIRECT APPROACH BY BULGARIANS TO THE MUSEUM RATHER THAN THROUGH SITES. POPOV AGREED TO FOLLOW WHATEVER APPROACH ARMITAGE FELT PREFERABLE. POPOV ALSO PROMISED TO INQUIRE AS TO THE CAUSE OF GOB DELAY IN RESPONDING TO OFFER OF "REFLECTIONS" AND TO EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR BULGARIAN TEXT OF CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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